(b) to (d). Under the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for opening of branches in-rural areas, the list of identified centres with necessary particulars in each District has to be given to the lead bank of that District. The lead-bank after consolidating the list received from all banks submits it to the District-Collector for recommendations and onward transmission to RBI through the concerned State Government. Under the Branch Licensing Policy (1990-95), opening of branches of Public Sector Banks is continuous process and hence it is not possible to project the-number of branches that will be opened in the rural areas of these Districts.

[*English*]

Repurchase of Gold sold out of Government stocks

238. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quality and value of gold sold by the Government in May, 1991 to raise money in foreign exchange with an option to repurchase the same; and

(b) the time by which the gold is likely to be repurchased by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Union Government leased 20 metric tonnes of confiscated gold held in Government account to the State bank of India as per lease agreement dated May 16, 1991. In turn, the State Bank of India entered into a sale transaction with repurchase option with Union Bank of Switzerland as per agreement dated May 18,1991. The aggregate value of gold leased to State Bank of India by the Government of India, computed at 95 percent of the price of gold at London Metal Exchange worked out to US $ 200.4 million.

(b) The State Bank of India will commence exercising repurchase option with the instalment due on 25th November, 1991.

[*Translation*]

More Buses for Trans-Yamuna Area

239.SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of buses operating under DTC in Delhi at present and the number of those being operated in trans-Yamuna area;

(b) the total requirement of buses to meet the needs of the population of Delhi;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard?

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to operate more buses in trans-Yamuna area to meet the heavy rush of commuters there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) As on 31-10-91 the total number of buses operating under DTC in Delhi was 4580 including 620 private buses. The buses operating under the Trans-Yamuna area was 1039 including 71 private buses.

(b) to (d). The Working Group on Road Transport for the 8th Five Year Plan had projected the following fleet requirements of DTC buses and private buses for the year 1991-92:-

DTC	Private Operators	Total
6019	2408	8427

(e) Due to financial constraints DTC at present is not in a position to provide more buses to operate in the Trans-Yamuna Area.

Government have recommended to Delhi Administration a scheme for the introduction of special stage carriage permits to be given to the private operators at a fare structure higher than that of DTC. The Delhi Administration have also been asked to issue more stage carriage permits to private operators which would adequately serve all parts of Delhi including Trans-Yamuna area.

[*English*]

Discrepancy in R.B.I. and IMF Figures About Indian Economy

240.SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any discrepancy in the RBI figures and those of IMF in regard to the growth of Indian economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this issue has been taken up with the IMF as it involves the integrity of our major financial institution; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Delay in Clearance of Applications for Issue of Equity/Debentures

241. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies whose applications for issue of equity/debentures have been cleared by the Controller of Capital Issues(CCI) during the last three months;

(b) whether a large number of such applications are still awaiting approval by the C.C.I.;

(c) if so, the number thereof and the reasons for the delay;

(d) whether the Government propose to allow automatic approval of such applications under a time-bound programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) During the last three months (August-October 1991), 206 applications of Public Limited companies for issue of Equity/Debentures have been cleared by Controller of Capital Issues.

(b) and (c). As the companies have not furnished complete information and in some cases the proposal submitted by companies do not conform to guidelines for issue of Equity/Debentures, 33 applications received during the above mentioned period have not been cleared as on date.

(d) to (f). In view of the reply to (a), (b) & (c) above, the Question of automatic approval does not arise.

Raw silk Production

242.SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of raw silk in the country during the year 1990;

(b) whether a massive Rs. 700 crores World Bank aided project has been taken up in the country to enhance silk production to 15,000 tonnes in five traditional states and twelve States by 1994-95; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The production of raw silk in